

A Message from the Director...

The U.S. Geological Survey is changing. If we are going to be able to provide the discipline-based and integrated science on which people have come to depend, we must enter this new century as a sleeker, stronger, and more flexible Federal science agency. We must be prepared to do this in the world of the future, not the world of the past. It is in the best interest of our science and our bureau's future to operate not as a confederation of scientific disciplines, but as one bureau in which content of the programs are more important than who "owns" them. The most important changes in store are –

- Collaboration across divisions and disciplines to enhance integrated science,
- Enhanced regional leadership,
- More cohesive programs,
- Streamlined business practices, and
- Renewed commitment to our customers.

Our former division-centered culture detracted from the focus on science programs needed for relevance to a changing world. Instead, we are now facilitating collaborative and integrated science, making it easier to work across division lines. Our leadership, decision-making, administrative, operational, and program organization and processes will be less cumbersome and more efficient.

I am pleased to present the FY 2001 budget request to the Congress. The request reflects our increased focus on core science programs that have been the traditional strength of the USGS over the years. Our mapping endeavors, from capturing and disseminating satellite imagery to geologic mapping in all of the 50 states; our examination of the quality and quantity of the Nation's most precious resource—water; our assessment and monitoring of the health of regional ecosystems and the species that inhabit them; all of these programs are vital to the continued protection and sustainable development of our Nation's natural resources. I want to thank you for your consideration of this budget and look forward to working with you in the coming weeks and months to secure your support for this request.

USGS stands on the threshold of becoming an even more vibrant, more robust and more important earth and life science agency. We are ready to make the changes necessary to cross that threshold and to tackle the challenges of the new century with renewed vigor and a clarified sense of purpose and mission - to provide the high quality, objective scientific information our Nation needs.

Dr. Charles G. Groat